

it is well to remember that the shadow of the  
Presidency  
on no man twice, save in most  
exceptional eirenm-

"Now, my dear Will, there is the situation as I  
see it. It  
is a hard choice to make, and you yourself  
have to make it.  
You have two alternatives before you, each  
with uncertain  
possibilities, and you cannot feel sure that  
which ever you  
take you will not afterward feel that it would  
have been  
better if you had taken the other. But which  
ever you take  
*I* know that you will render great and durable  
service to  
the nation for many years to come, and I feel  
sure that you  
should decide in accordance with the  
promptings of your  
liking, of your own belief as to where you can  
render  
the service which most appeals to you, as well  
as that which  
you feel is most beneficial to the nation. No  
one can with  
wisdom advise you."

Mr. Taft had the offer under consideration  
for three and  
a half months before deciding, and on July 30,  
1906, de-  
clined it in a letter written from Murray Bay,  
Canada,  
where he was on vacation. In it he repeated  
the Philippine  
reason that he had given when the first offer  
was made,  
and said:

"I know that few, if any, even among my  
friends, will  
credit me with anything but a desire,  
unconscious, perhaps,  
to run for the Presidency, and that I must  
face and bear  
misconstruction of what I do. But I am  
confident you  
my reasons as I give them to you, and will  
believe  
me when I say that I would much prefer to  
go on the

Supreme Bench for life than to run for the  
Presidency, and  
in twenty years of judicial service I could  
make my-  
self more useful to the country than as  
President, even if  
my should come about.  
"Please do not misunderstand me to think  
that I am  
or that the world could not run on much the  
if I were to disappear in the St. Lawrence  
river. But  
seem to me to have imposed something in the  
of a trust to me personally that I should not  
dis-